

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 8 and 10, claims 1 and 9 having been combined which obviates the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejection.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Delalu et al reference which according to the Examiner discloses a high chloromatic degree hypochlorite composition to produce monochloramine and states that the 101.9 chlorometric degree hypochlorite solution contains 4.54 m of sodium hypochlorite and 0.77% total NaOH or 0.19 m per litre. He refers to Example 3 specifically.

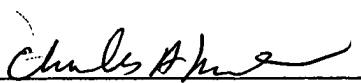
It is noted that claim 10 was not rejected but the Examiner did not indicate that it was allowable. The Examiner is requested to clarify the status of claim 10.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection as the Delalu et al reference does not anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention. Applicants confirm that the Examiner's calculations that 0.77% of NaOH is equivalent to 0.19 mol/litre are correct but Delalu et al reference teaches the reaction of a mixed ammoniacal solution titrating 12.4 m of NH_3 and 5 moles of $\text{NH}_4 \text{Cl}$ with an equivalent volume of hypochlorite solution (4.63 m)

This reaction is Example 3 of the present invention (not part of the present invention) and it shows that when a mixed ammonia-ammonium chloride solution is used, the residual total ammonium concentration is significantly greater than the residual total ammonium concentration of the invention resulting in yield approximately one half that of the present invention. Applicants' process is carried out in the absence of added ammonia. The level of residual ammonia is lower than the prior art by almost 95% and results in greater yield (lines 5 to 18 of page 3). Therefore, the reference does not anticipate or render obvious Applicants' improved process and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, the claims point out Applicants' patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures